

SEP 19 1990

Honorable John Paul Hammerschmidt
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear ~~Congressman~~ ^{my} Hammerschmidt:

Thank you for your expression of concern regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed plan to incinerate hazardous wastes at the Arkwood site.

The EPA has also received a letter from the Omaha School District regarding this same issue. In its letter, the Omaha School District requested that all possible alternatives be evaluated prior to the final remedy selection. The School District also expressed a concern that the incinerator would fill the area with smoke, jeopardizing the health of area residents. The School District also expressed its preference for the sieve and wash alternative from the Feasibility Study.

Let me first assure you that the selection of remedies at Superfund sites are not made lightly. Remedies are selected with the community's protection being of the highest priority. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study process ensures that every reasonable alternative is explored. Through this process, onsite incineration was proposed to the public as the remedy that EPA believes would be the most protective of human health and the environment. Incineration is a technology which has been proven to be effective for the contaminants found at the Arkwood, Inc., site. The safety features and pollution controls found on modern incinerators are designed to protect human health, even within close proximity to the incinerator. EPA feels that the Omaha Public School will experience no adverse effects due to the incineration and that the area will certainly not be filled with smoke.

EPA has considered the sieve and wash alternative for the site contaminants. Based upon treatability tests done during the Feasibility Study, EPA has determined that this alternative, alone, will not treat the site soils to a level which is protective of human health and the environment. EPA is, however, considering the sieve and wash as a treatment step for incineration. Such a pre-treatment step could minimize the amount and length of time required for incineration.

I hope this information is helpful to you in responding to your constituents. If I may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert E. Layton Jr.
Robert E. Layton Jr., P.E.
Regional Administrator

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